

ABSTRACT

The invention provides a discharge electrodes connecting structure for a laser apparatus in which a thickness of the return plate is set to be within an optimum range, and a laser apparatus employing the same. Accordingly, a laser apparatus is provided with a laser chamber (2) sealing a laser gas, a pair of anode (5A) and cathode (5B) provided within the laser chamber in an opposing manner, generating a discharge so as to excite a laser gas flowing therebetween and oscillating a laser beam, a conductive anode base (6) holding the anode, an insulative cathode base (8) holding the cathode, and a return plate (9) electrically connecting the anode base to the laser chamber so as to supply a current to the anode. A thickness (t) of the return plate is set to be equal to or more than 100 μm and equal to or less than 500 μm , and the return plate is arranged substantially in parallel to a gas flow of the laser gas flowing between the discharge electrodes.